# NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE <br> Chapter 251, PL 1975 as amended, Engineering Policies- Technical Bulletin 

| Technical Bulletin: | Effective Date: |
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| 2006-1.0 |  |$\quad$| From: 1, 2006 |
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| Subject: <br> Applicability of Web Soil Survey Data to <br> Chapter 251 Projects | Hunter Birckhead, P.E., Section Chief

### 1.01 PURPOSE

To transmit the May 1, 2006 letter (see enclosed) from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in NJ regarding the use of the current New Jersey Soil Survey data on the web at the following URL: http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soils/\#soilsurveyproducts. This Soil Survey information shall be utilized by Soil Conservation Districts, the NJDA State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) as well as engineers, planners and others to ascertain the intrinsic characteristics, capabilities and limitations of soils. These factors impact engineering design.

### 1.02 SUMMARY

The May 1, 2006 letter from NRCS/NJ, advises that the Web Soil Survey is the official soil survey of NRCS/NJ that has been integrated with the National Cooperative Soil Survey. This current edition of the soil survey utilizes revised soil series symbology and linework and may differ from previously published surveys. The web soil survey supersedes previously published paper soil surveys except for noted county soil surveys underway.

The Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey, promulgated by the SSCC requires the use of accurate scientific data including soils, climate and vegetative data. Such data shall be utilized to ensure that decisions affecting natural resources management are based on the most accurate scientific information. Therefore, the web soil survey for New Jersey shall be utilized for the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act program. Projects subject to the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act (N.J.S.A. 4:24-39 et seq.) shall utilize such web soil data.

This change shall be effective immediately.

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| Subject: | SOI - Web Soil Survey - NJ | Date: | May 1, 2006 |
| To: | New Jersey District Conservationist <br> NJ State Soil Conservation Committee <br> NJ State Technical Committee | Code: | 430 |
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Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced the launch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web Soil Survey site on August 6, 2005. Data posted on the Web Soil Survey is the most current and is the official soil survey, superseding previously published reports. Anyone who has an Internet connection can access and use the Web Soil Survey. No special software or training is needed. The URL is http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app.

Both spatial and attribute data are available for nineteen of New Jersey's twenty-one counties on Web Soil Survey. Attribute data is available for Warren County at the website; spatial data for Warren County is under development. Hudson County data is not available.

Web Soil Survey maps show roads and streams to assist in identifying surveyed areas. Existing data layers already digitized by USGS, TIGER, and other sources were added to the Soil Survey data generated and provided by NRCS soil scientists. The Web Soil Survey is intended to provide soils information only. Other geographical data is for location purposes only.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort between USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension, New Jersey State Soil Conservation Committee, each local Soil Conservation District, and others.

The development of the Web Soil Survey, the official Soil Survey data, started with the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (EFOTG) and Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) in the early and mid 1990's. The Soil Data Mart was launched in January, 2005, allowing on-line interpretation for selected map units, as well as entire soil survey areas. These products provided the ability to download SSURGO for Geographic Information System (GIS) users.

New Jersey's NRCS Soil Scientists have developed some tools to assist Soil Survey users in transitioning to the new Web Soil Survey product. Visit the New Jersey NRCS website (http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soils/\#SoilSurveyProducts) for guidance on how to locate reports and data traditionally sought from the historic Soil Surveys.

Questions may be directed to Ronnie L. Taylor, State Soil Scientist (732) 537-6061 or ron.taylor@n.usda.gov.
Sincerely,


State Conservationist

